

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A system for determining freight rates, comprising:
2 a rate sheet input module for accepting data representative of a rate sheet, the
3 rate sheet specifying freight rates;
4 a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage
5 module for storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted to
6 interpret a particular type of rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer module
7 for comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module
8 with the rate sheet to identify a template adapted to interpret the rate
9 sheet; and
10 a rule generation module for generating rules for calculating the freight rates
11 responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:
2 a user-interface module adapted to provide an interface with which a user can
3 specify information about the rate sheet.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module identifies
2 the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to keywords in the rate sheet.
- 1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the
2 rate sheet.
- 1 7. The system of claim 5, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module identifies
2 the template responsive to locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the rate sheet analyzer module is adapted
2 to identify potential errors in the rate sheet.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the template storage module is local to the
2 rate sheet analyzer module.

1 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the template storage module is remote
2 from the rate sheet analyzer module.

1 11. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote
3 location for analysis.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the communications module is adapted to
2 communicate the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a determination by the
3 rate sheet analyzer module that no template in the template storage module is adapted to
4 interpret the rate sheet.

1 13. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a communications module for receiving templates adapted to interpret rate
3 sheets and providing the templates to the template storage module.

1 14. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial
3 charges for the freight rates;
4 wherein the rule generation module generates the rules for calculating the
5 freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

1 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the rule generation module generates
2 Prolog rules for calculating freight rates.

1 16. A method of determining freight rates, comprising:
2 receiving data representative of a rate sheet, the rate sheet specifying freight
3 rates;
4 interfacing with a template storage module storing a plurality of templates,
5 each template adapted to interpret a particular type of rate sheet;
6 comparing the plurality of templates in the template storage module with the
7 rate sheet to identify a template adapted to interpret the rate sheet; and
8 generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the identified
9 template and the rate sheet.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the rate sheet is in a spreadsheet format.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the rate sheet specifies zone-based rates.

1 19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
2 provide a user interface with which a user can specify information about the
3 rate sheet.

1 20. The method of claim 16, wherein the comparing comprises:
2 identifying the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to
3 keywords in the rate sheet.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the keywords signify types of data in the
2 rate sheet.

1 22. The method of claim 20, wherein the identifying occurs responsive to
2 locations of the keywords in the rate sheet.

1 23. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:
2 identifying potential errors in the rate sheet.

1 24. The method of claim 16, wherein the template storage module is local.

1 25. The method of claim 16, wherein the template storage module is remote.

1 26. The method of claim 16, wherein the comparing further comprises:
2 communicating the rate sheet to a remote location for analysis.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the communicating comprises:
2 communicating the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a
3 determination that no template in the template storage module is
4 adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

1 28. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
2 receiving templates adapted to interpret rate sheets; and
3 providing the templates to the template storage module.

1 29. The method of claim 16, further comprising:
2 accepting data representative of accessorial charges for the freight rates; and
3 generating rules for calculating the freight rates responsive to the accessorial
4 charges.

1 30. The method of claim 16, wherein the generated rules comprise Prolog
2 rules.

1 31. A computer program product comprising:
2 a computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied
3 therein for determining freight rates, the computer program logic
4 comprising:
5 a rate sheet input module for accepting data representative of a rate sheet,
6 the rate sheet specifying freight rates;

7 a rate sheet analyzer module adapted to interface with a template storage
8 module for storing a plurality of templates, each template adapted
9 to interpret a particular type of rate sheet, the rate sheet analyzer
10 module for comparing the plurality of templates in the template
11 storage module with the rate sheet to identify a template adapted to
12 interpret the rate sheet; and
13 a rule generation module for generating rules for calculating the freight
14 rates responsive to the identified template and the rate sheet.

1 32. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet is in a
2 spreadsheet format.

1 33. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet
2 specifies zone-based rates.

1 34. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer
2 program logic further comprises:
3 a user-interface module adapted to provide an interface with which a user can
4 specify information about the rate sheet.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet
2 analyzer module identifies the template adapted to interpret the rate sheet responsive to
3 keywords in the rate sheet.

1 36. The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the keywords signify
2 types of data in the rate sheet.

1 37. The computer program product of claim 35, wherein the rate sheet
2 analyzer module identifies the template responsive to locations of the keywords in the
3 rate sheet.

1 38. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rate sheet
2 analyzer module is adapted to identify potential errors in the rate sheet.

1 39. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the template storage
2 module is local to the rate sheet analyzer module.

1 40. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the template storage
2 module is remote from the rate sheet analyzer module.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer
2 program logic further comprises:

3 a communications module for communicating the rate sheet to a remote
4 location for analysis.

1 42. The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the communications
2 module is adapted to communicate the rate sheet to the remote location responsive to a
3 determination by the rate sheet analyzer module that no template in the template storage
4 module is adapted to interpret the rate sheet.

1 43. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer
2 program logic further comprises:

3 a communications module for receiving templates adapted to interpret rate
4 sheets and providing the templates to the template storage module.

1 44. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the computer
2 program logic further comprises:
3 an accessorial charge module for accepting data representative of accessorial
4 charges for the freight rates;
5 wherein the rule generation module generates the rules for calculating the
6 freight rates responsive to the accessorial charges.

1 45. The computer program product of claim 31, wherein the rule generation
2 module generates Prolog rules for calculating freight rates.